FOOTNOTES
FOR CHAPTER IV

-MESMERISM:

FIRST BELIEVED TO BE SOME UNSEEN FORCE MOVING THROUGH ALL LIVING THINGS, THIS OBSCURE FORM OF HEALING MAGNETISM WAS NAMED AFTER ITS FIRST ADVOCATE, GERMAN PHYSICIAN FRANZ MESMER.

THE TERM MESMERISM WAS LATER USED BY MESMER'S DISCIPLES TO DESCRIBE A STRANGE VARIATION OF HYPNOSIS, ONE THAT SUPPOSEDLY TAPPED INTO THAT UNIVERSAL MAGNETISM, USING ONLY THE POWER OF SUGGESTION TO CHARM AND PERSUADE RATHER THAN CONTROL.

ACCORDING TO THE BOARD OF INQUIRY APPOINTED BY KING LOUIS XVI IN 1784 HOWEVER, THE EFFECTS OF MESMERISM MOST LIKELY RELIED ON THE SUBJECT'S BELIEF OR IMAGINATION, AND THE ENTIRE PRACTICE WAS DEEMED FRAUDULENT BY CONTEMPORARY MEDICAL AUTHORITIES.

THE PRACTICE ENDURED WELL INTO THE 19TH CENTURY, WITH HUNDREDS OF BOOKS WRITTEN ON THE SUBJECT ACROSS THE WORLD, BUT WAS EVENTUALLY LOST AND FORGOTTEN.

-WITCH TRIALS-

LONG BEFORE THE SADLY INFAMOUS **SALEM WITCH TRIALS** OF 1692, THE PERSECUTION OF WOMEN ACCUSED OF WITCHCRAFT BEGAN AS A RECURRENT PROCESS IN EUROPE IN THE 15TH CENTURY.

HISTORICALLY, THE **VALAIS WITCH TRIALS** OF 1428 WERE THE FIRST EVENT IN WHICH THE SOLE ACCUSATION OF SORCERY LED TO THE SYSTEMATIC PERSECUTION AND EXECUTION OF HUNDREDS OF VICTIMS (TWO THIRD OF WHICH WERE REPORTEDLY MALE), INITIATING THE LONGEST PERIOD OF WITCH TRIALS IN EUROPEAN HISTORY.

THESE EARLY TRIALS REQUIRED AS LITTLE AS THREE OR FOUR TESTIMONIES TO MANDATE AN ARREST, AND BETWEEN FIVE AND SEVEN MORE TO JUSTIFY THE USE OF TORTURE.

SOON, THE IDEA OF IDENTIFYING AND PROSECUTING WITCHES SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBORING AREAS OF NORTHERN ITALY, SWITZERLAND AND SOUTHERN GERMANY, AND IT WAS AT BASEL THAT THE COUNCIL WHICH STANDARDIZED THE STEREOTYPE OF THE SATANIC WITCH (**THE COUNCIL OF BASEL**) ASSEMBLED FROM 1431 TO 1437.

IN 1484,
POPE INNOCENT VIII EVEN
ISSUED A PUBLIC DECREE
IN WHICH HE RECOGNIZED THE
EXISTENCE OF WITCHES AND
GAVE FULL PAPAL APPROVAL FOR
INQUISITORS TO SYSTEMATICALLY
HUNT AND DESTROY THEM.

THE INQUISITION LATER
PUBLISHED THE INFAMOUS
MALLEUS MALEFICARUM,
MAKING WITCHCRAFT A CRIME
OF THE HIGHEST ORDER
IN THE EYE OF
THE CHURCH.

THE HEIGHT OF THE EUROPEAN TRIALS CAME BETWEEN
1560 AND 1630, WHEN THE KING JAMES VI OF SCOTLAND
SET UP ROYAL COMMISSIONS TO HUNT DOWN WITCHES
IN HIS REALM, RECOMMENDING TORTURE IN DEALING
WITH SUSPECTS.

IN 1597, HE EVEN WROTE A BOOK ABOUT THE MENACE THAT
WITCHES POSED TO SOCIETY ENTITLED DAEMONOLOGIE,
OF WHICH MANY QUOTES AND
RITUAL DESCRIPTIONS ARE SAID
TO HAVE DIRECTLY INSPIRED
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
PRODUCTION OF MACBETH.

SOME CLAIM KING JAMES VI
WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR
INSIDIOUS CHANGES TO THE HOLY BIBLE,
REPLACING "DO NOT SUFFER A POISONER TO LIVE"
BY "DO NOT SUFFER A WITCH TO LIVE" IN EXODUS 22:18

THE EPIDEMIC OF WITCHCRAFT ACCUSATIONS THAT FOLLOWED LASTED FAR INTO THE MID-17TH CENTURY, AND AFTER YEARS OF PERSECUTION AND RELIGIOUS PROPAGANDA, THE NOTION OF WITCHCRAFT AS A NON-DEMONIC ART WAS ALL BUT FORGOTTEN.

-REICHSFUHRER HIMMLER:

HEINRICH HIMMLER, LEAD MEMBER OF THE NAZI PARTY AND REICHSFUHRER OF THE SCHUTZSTAFFEL, WAS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEN IN NAZI GERMANY, AND UNDENIABLY A MAIN ARCHITECT OF THE HOLOCAUST.

ALTHOUGH HE GENERALLY ACTED ON HITLER'S BEHALF, HIMMLER WAS FACILITATOR AND OVERSEER OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS, DIRECTING THE KILLING OF MILLIONS IN ORDER TO CLEANSE GERMANY AND BREED A MASTER RACE.

AS AN AGRONOMY STUDENT, HE WAS ACQUAINTED WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF SELECTIVE BREEDING, WHICH HE PROPOSED TO APPLY TO HUMANS, BELIEVING HE COULD ENGINEER THE GERMAN POPULACE THROUGH EUGENICS TO BE NORDIC IN APPEARANCE WITHIN SEVERAL DECADES OF THE END OF THE WAR.

HIMMLER ALSO HAD A LIFELONG INTEREST IN OCCULTISM, INTERPRETING GERMANIC NEOPAGAN BELIEFS IN SEARCH OF PROOF OF AN ARYAN AND NORDIC RACIAL SUPERIORITY FROM ANCIENT TIMES, AND INCORPORATING ESOTERIC SYMBOLISM AND RITUALS INTO THE SS.

ACCORDING TO RUMORS, HIS INTEREST FOR MYSTICISM EVEN LED HIM TO CALL UPON SOME DARK AND ANCIENT FORCES IN ORDER TO SECURE VICTORY AND GRANT IMMORTALITY TO THE MASTER RACE...

AFTER THE LIBERATION OF THE AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP AT THE HANDS OF THE SOVIETS IN JANUARY 1945, HIMMLER REALIZED THE WAR WAS LOST AND ATTEMPTED TO OPEN PEACE TALKS WITHOUT HITLER'S KNOWLEDGE. WHEN HIS BETRAYAL WAS DISCOVERED, HE WAS DISMISSED FROM ALL HIS POSTS BY THE FURHER, WHO ORDERED HIS ARREST IN APRIL 1945.

HIMMLER ATTEMPTED TO GO INTO HIDING, BUT WAS DETAINED AND THEN ARRESTED BY BRITISH FORCES ONCE HIS IDENTITY BECAME KNOWN.

HE COMMITTED SUICIDE WHILE IN BRITISH CUSTODY IN MAY 1945.